

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CEQ-02 CIAE-00 COA-02 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-11 EPA-04 INR-10 IO-13 L-03 NSF-04 NSC-10

NSAE-00 PM-07 RSC-01 SCI-06 SS-15 AEC-11 DRC-01 /146 W

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R 071829Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7307

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION BERLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, SENV, GW

SUBJECT: US/FRG ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT- REACTOR

SAFETY AND RADIATION PROTECTION

REF: A. EC BRUSSELS 4931, B. BONN 12776, C. BONN 11656

SUMMARY: COMPLEX FRG ORGANIZATION FOR REACTOR SAFETY AND RELATED TOPICS, THE IMPORTANCE OF EFFECTIVE US-FRG COOPERATION IN THIS AREA AND THE STRONG FRG INTEREST IN INCLUSION THIS TOPIC IN GOVERNMENT-GOVERNMENT "ENVIRONMENTAL" AGREEMENT NOW BEING CONSIDERED ALL SUGGEST THAT IT MAY BE DESIRABLE FOR USG TO ACQUIESCE IN THIS GERMAN PROPOSAL. END SUMMARY.

1. NEW "FEDERAL OFFICE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS"

(BUNDESAMT FUER UMWELTFRAGEN, BUF) WILL PROBABLY NOT RPT NOT PLAY SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN QUESTIONS OF REACTOR SAFETY AND RELATED TOPICS. ORGANIZATION OF BUF IS NOT YET FINALLY DETERMINED PENDING COMPLETION OF EXPERT STUDY OF ITS FUNCTIONS AND STRUCTURE. HOWEVER, WELL-INFORMED OFFICIALS DOUBT THAT BUF WOULD EVER PROVIDE MORE THAN NOMINAL SUPPORT, I.E. INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION

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SERVICES IN FIELD OF REACTOR SAFETY AND RADIATION PRO-

TECTION WITH PROBABLE EMPHASIS ON LATTER TOPIC INCLUDING
RADIOACTIVE WASTE DISPOSAL.

2. DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR REACTOR SAFETY AND
RADIATION PROTECTION AMONG VARIOUS FRG FEDERAL AND STATE
AGENCIES IS NOW RATHER CLEAR ALTHOUGH A FEW DETAILS ARE
STILL BEING WORKED OUT. FRG MINISTRY OF INTERIOR WILL
PLAY KEY ROLE AS AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR OVERALL POLICY,
LICENSING AND REGULATORY ACTIONS. HOWEVER, TWO OTHER
FEDERAL MINISTRIES ARE INVOLVED IN SOME ASPECTS, AS WELL
AS VARIOUS "FEDERAL OFFICES", ADVISORY GROUPS
AND NOMINALLY PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS. FEDERAL MINISTRY

FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY HANDLES RELEVANT RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT. MINISTRY OF ECONOMICS DETERMINES ENERGY
POLICY AND, THROUGH FEDERAL INSTITUTION FOR MATERIALS
TESTING (BUNDESANSTALT FUER MATERIALPRUEFUNG, BAM) IN
BERLIN PLAYS A ROLE IN SETTING RELEVANT
STANDARDS. PRIVATE "TECHNICAL INSPECTION BOARD"
(TECHNISCHE UEBERWACHUNGS VEREIN, TUEV) THROUGH ITS
INSTITUTE FOR REACTOR SAFETY PROVIDES TECHNICAL ADVICE
AND OTHER SERVICES TO BOTH FEDERAL AND STATE AUTHORITIES.
ULTIMATELY, ALL RELEVANT DATA DEVELOPED WITHIN THIS
COMPLEX MECHANISM WILL BE INTEGRATED BY NEW, 50-MEMBER
COMMITTEE FOR NUCLEAR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY (KERN-
TECHNISCHE AUSSCHUSS, KTA) WHICH IS TO COMPILE
STANDARDS.

3. BOTH FRG MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE
STRONGLY FAVOR INCLUSION OF REACTOR SAFETY, RADIATION
PROTECTION AND RELATED TOPICS WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF US-FRG
ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT NOW BEING CONSIDERED. MININT
OFFICIALS EXPLAINED TO EMBASSY SCIENCE ATTACHE THAT THIS

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TOPIC (ITEM G IN FRG DRAFT DISCUSSED IN REF B) WOULD ALSO INCLUDE REACTOR SAFETY RESEARCH, WHICH IS WITHIN COMPETENCE OF FRG TECHNOLOGY MINISTRY. FURTHERMORE, THIS ITEM IS INTENDED TO BE BROADER IN CONCEPT THAN RELEVANT REGULATORY ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM. MININT REPS SUGGESTED THAT THE TOPIC MIGHT BETTER BE DESCRIBED AS "SAFETY OF NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS", INCLUDING RADIOACTIVE WASTE DISPOSAL AND TRANSPORTATION OF RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES. MININT REPS, WHO HAVE HEARD RUMORS THAT USAEC DOES NOT RPT NOT FAVOR INCLUSION OF THIS TOPIC IN "ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT", ASSURED SCIATT THAT USAEC WOULD NOT RPT NOT LOOSE ANY DATA OR PROGRAM IF REACTOR SAFETY WERE INCLUDED IN BROADER FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT. SPECIFIC "AGENCY-TO-AGENCY" AGREEMENTS WOULD STILL BE REQUIRED FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF DETAILS AND TO PROVIDE FOR SPECIAL PROBLEMS SUCH AS PROTECTION OF PROPIETARY DATA.

4. EMBASSY STRONGLY ENDORSES DESIRABILITY OF EFFECTIVE US-FRG COOPERATION IN FIELD OF REACTOR SAFETY WHICH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CERTAIN TO BE OF INCREASING INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE. FURTHERMORE, EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION IN THIS FIELD AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMON STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES COULD FACILITATE INTERNATIONAL SALES OF US NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS AND MINIMIZE POSSIBILITY THAT FRG REGULATORY MEASURES COULD CONSTITUTE NON-TARIFF TRADE BARRIER (SEE BONN 10551). IN VIEW COMPLEX DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITY IN FRG AND ITS INTENTION TO INTERPRET "REACTOR SAFETY" TOPIC BROADLY IN "ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT", EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT INCLUSION OF THIS TOPIC AND ITS RELATED ASPECTS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF A GOVERNMENT-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT MAY BE THE MOST EFFICIENT

WAY TO PROVIDE FOR US-FRG COOPERATION IN THIS AREA.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR ENERGY, MONITORING, AGREEMENTS, NUCLEAR REACTORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BONN12914
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730950/aaaabkhn.tel
Line Count: 171
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. EC BRUSSELS 4931, B. BONN 12776,C, . BONN 11656
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <02-Aug-2001 by thigpegh, REFER TO DOE>; RELEASED <17-Sep-2001 by garlanwa>; APPROVED <17-Sep-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US/FRG ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT- REACTOR SAFETY AND RADIATION PROTECTION
TAGS: TECH, SENV, GE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005